

The 13 Tense Structures

Present	Simple	Present simple form	<i>I go to the cinema every week</i>
Past		Past simple form	<i>I went to the cinema last week</i>
Future		Will + bare infinitive	<i>I will go to the cinema with you</i>
Present	Continuous	Am/are/is + present participle	<i>I'm watching a film</i>
Past		Was/were + present participle	<i>I was watching a film earlier</i>
Future		Will be + present participle	<i>I will be watching a film at 8pm tonight</i>
Present	Perfect	Have/has + past participle	<i>I have seen Harry Potter 3 times</i>
Past		Had + past participle	<i>By the time I arrived at the cinema, the film had finished</i>
Future		Will have + past participle	<i>I will have finished watching season 2 of Game of Thrones by 9pm</i>
Present	Perfect Continuous	Have/has + been + present participle	<i>I have been sitting outside for 2 hours now</i>
Past		Had + been + present participle	<i>I had been waiting in the queue for 20 minutes, before we were told to go home.</i>
Future		Will have + been + present continuous	<i>When I graduate, I will have been studying philosophy for 3 years</i>
Future with "going to"		Am/are/is + going + infinitive	<i>I am going to visit my parents next weekend</i>

As you may have observed, all continuous tenses use a form of the verb 'be' and a present participle, whereas all perfect tenses use a form of the verb 'have' and a past participle.